

Message Text

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ORIGIN L-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 JUSE-00 SCA-01 EB-07 USPS-01 TRSE-00 SY-05

USSS-00 VO-03 /068 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, BDIS, PFOL, PFOU, HA, US

SUBJECT: STAMP SCANDAL

REF: A. STATE 72175 B. PORT AU PRINCE 732

1. SUMMARY: DEPT OFFICERS MET MARCH 31 WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF US SECRET SERVICE AND US POSTAL SERVICE TO DISCUSS STAMP MATTER AND POSSIBLE USG INVESTIGATION. BOTH USSS AND USPS AGREED TO REVIEW AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS (INCLUDING ENCLOSURES TO A-39 THAT ARE NOT YET TRANSLATED) TO DETERMINE WHETHER INVESTIGATION BY EITHER JUSTIFIED. DEPT ALSO IN CONTACT WITH JUSTICE ON EXTRADITION; JUSTICE MAY BE HELPFUL ON OTHER ASPECTS OF CASE IN THE EVENT THAT NEITHER SS NOR USPS ABLE TO ASSIST. ON BASIS OF PRELIMINARY REVIEW, IT APPEARS DOUBTFUL THAT THERE HAS BEEN "COUNTER-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FEITING" WITHIN MEANING OF 18 USC 502 OR ARTICLE 14 OF

UNIVERSAL POSTAL CONVENTION. HOWEVER, POSSIBILITY OF POSTAL FRAUD (18 USC 1341) OR OTHER FEDERAL CRIME REMAINS. END SUMMARY.

2. DISCUSSIONS WERE PRELIMINARY. BOTH USPS AND SS PROMISED MORE DEFINITIVE RESPONSES ONCE TRANSLATED DOCUMENTS RECEIVED, BUT STRESSED THAT ADDITIONAL FACTS MIGHT BE NECESSARY. IT APPEARS THAT ALLEGED ACTION OF

STOLOW AND GROUP (IF ANY) NOT ACTUALLY COUNTERFEITING; COUNTERFEITING REQUIRES THE COPYING OF THE GENUINE ARTICLE, RATHER THAN CREATING OF NEW ONE. (1973 "OVERLAY" SALE MIGHT BE DIFFERENT; WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION GOH CAN PROVIDE ON THIS ASPECT.) HOWEVER, FEDERAL LAW ON MAIL FRAUD MAY HAVE BEEN VIOLATED. WE WILL LOOK INTO POSSIBILITY OF VIOLATIONS OF OTHER FEDERAL LAWS WITH APPROPRIATE AGENCIES, AND MAY EVENTUALLY WISH TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS OF STATE LAW WITH THE PROPER AUTHORITIES, AS MANY FRAUD ACTIONS ARE NOT COVERED BY FEDERAL LAW. WHETHER ANY CRIMES HAVE IN FACT BEEN COMMITTED IN US WILL DEPEND, OF COURSE, ON SPECIFIC FACTS AS DEVELOPED.

3. YOU WILL PRESUMABLY WISH TO DEFER DISCUSSION OF MATTER WITH GOH UNTIL WE HAVE HEARD FURTHER FROM USPS AND SS. HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD GIVE GOH DETAILS ON PREPARATION OF EXTRADITION REQUESTS (REF A) ASAP. IN VIEW OF GOH PLANS FOR AN EARLY TRIAL (REF B), EMBASSY SHOULD IMPRESS UPON GOH FACT THAT EVEN ASSUMING ALL DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED IS IN ORDER, EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT A MINIMUM OF TWO MONTHS IS REQUIRED UPON RECEIPT OF DOCUMENTS TO EFFECT EXTRADITION IN THE UNITED STATES. PROCESS COULD TAKE CONSIDERABLY LONGER SHOULD THE EVIDENCE BE JUDGED INSUFFICIENT AND REQUIRE RECTIFICATION BY THE GOH.

4. DEPT WILL DO EVERYTHING IT CAN TO SEE THAT MATTER IS PROPERLY INVESTIGATED IN US. AT SOME POINT IN YOUR CONVERSATION WITH GOH OFFICIALS WE WOULD HOPE YOU CAN DIPLOMATICALLY URGE GOH TO COOPERATE IN SIMILAR VEIN WITH USG INVESTIGATION OF VISA FRAUD. WE HAVE NO INTENTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF MAKING THAT ISSUE QUID PRO QUO FOR US EFFORTS ON STAMP SCANDAL, BUT WOULD HOPE GOH CAN BE MADE TO UNDERSTAND FACT THAT NEED FOR COOPERATION ON SUCH MATTERS IS TWO-WAY STREET. KISSINGER

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